



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 9, 2007
Week Ending: April 8, 2007
CWP WA-CW1507

Typical Spring Weather Continues, Planting on Schedule, Range and Pasture Look Good

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.6. Typical spring weather and low temperatures were reported throughout the state. Producers reported a flurry of spraying, seeding, fertilizing and tilling activities. Overall, winter wheat continued to look good and producers reported weed pressure was low. Hay growers have started to fertilize. Christmas tree growers were busy applying herbicide and fertilizer. Potato growers were busy preparing fields and planting. Rented potato cropland was tight.

Fruit and Vegetables

Apple and pear trees were leafing out. Soft fruit bud loss was reported due to frost. Some apricot, cherry, peach, plum and crabapple trees were in full bloom, and apple and pear trees were leafing out. Green pea planting continued.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 2% poor, 14% fair, 60% good and 23% excellent. Overall, pasture was reported to be in good condition. In warmer areas, cattle were rotated on pasture in an effort to keep ahead of lush growth. In the northeastern part of the state, cattle were still being fed hay and ranchers were expecting to turn cattle out as growth allowed.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.6
Last Week	5.1

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	1	4	74	21
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	15	74	10
Subsoil	1	12	80	7
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	9	17	71	3
Irrigation Water	0	0	92	8
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	7	91	0
Hay & Roughage	12	11	74	3

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	40	28	38	54
Spring Wheat Emerged	11	5	18	22
Barley Planted	33	12	28	35
Barley Emerged	3	2	11	12
Potatoes Planted	28	10	28	26
Corn Planted	4	NA	NA	5
Dry Edible Beans Planted	10	NA	7	3
Proc. Green Peas Planted	35	7	34	24
Dry Peas Planted	11	10	17	13

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	5	21	62	10
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	6	75	19

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: The weather was cool and rainy with wind.

Clark: Drier weather helped boost sales for area nursery crop producers.

Grays Harbor: The distant hum of tractors could be heard echoing across the rural landscape as ag producers took advantage of sunny days to begin field cultivation. Most of the soil being turned was in preparation for sweet corn planting. A record breaking 77 degrees on Good Friday had many producers convinced that the wet, cold weather pattern was about to change. This optimism was quickly dimmed, however, as heavy rainfall and cooler temperatures returned on Easter Sunday. Christmas tree growers started making fertilizer applications with some applying herbicides on the drier days. Livestock producers were applying liquid manure to forage fields and began fencing off pastures for rotational grazing. Cut-flower daffodil and tulip growers reported excellent sales for the Easter holiday. Greenhouse vegetable growers reported strong sales for one-gallon tomato transplants. A tapestry of vivid color continues to unfold across the rural landscape as the chartreuse blooms of big leaf maples, red flowering currants, Oregon grape and other flowering native plants validate that yet another growing season has begun.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The week started with snow showers, changed to rain showers, and followed with sunshine and nearly 80 degree temperatures. The weather has been like a normal spring, which was a frustration to farmers and forecasters.

Lewis: It was a mixed week of glorious weather followed by strong rains at night.

Mason: There was 0.25 of an inch of precipitation during the week. Weather conditions were generally pleasant. Producers were rotating cows on pastures, trying to keep ahead of the lush growth.

Pacific: Periods of sunny weather allowed producers to continue early season field activities. With improving pasture conditions, livestock producers had stock on field forage, and initiated manure application operations. Small fruit producers completed weed control activities, and cranberry growers continued pruning and bog maintenance work. Shellfish growers were busy with

oyster harvesting and seeding efforts, along with early season clam planting operations.

Pierce/King: Pastures were growing good and temperatures were in the upper 70's. Crop conditions looked good around the South Puget Sound throughout the past week.

Skagit: Earlier in the week there were some nice days, and farmers were able to work in the fields. The weather has been wetter and colder than usual, which put producers farther behind than normal.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather was mild, fluctuating between overcast and sunny skies. The fields were dry enough for fieldwork to begin. Skagit County continued to receive notice of losses to hybrid cabbage due to January's freeze.

Snohomish/N. King: It was a good week for fieldwork, with dry days and temperatures approaching 80 degrees near the end of the week. Plowing was underway. Pasture growth was excellent with the warming temperatures. Stone fruits were in full bloom and early apples were beginning to bloom. Early honey flow was on with the blooming of maples and dandelions.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): The weather was wet and cloudy, and snow was received one day during the week.

Thurston: Spring weather brought less rainfall and more sunshine throughout the week with a record high of 77 degrees recorded on Good Friday. Tigress producers took advantage of several days with no rainfall to make herbicide and fertilizer applications. Ag producers with lighter soils began field cultivation. Livestock producers were setting up temporary fencing for grazing rotations on pastures. Christmas tree growers started applying herbicides and fertilizing plantations. Commercial vegetable truck farmers were planting early season vegetables. Heavy rainfall on Easter Sunday and a forecast for more rain and cooler temperatures validated that it truly is spring with unpredictable weather!

Whatcom: The weather was a mixed bag—first freezing temperatures, then snow and rain showers off and on during the week. Blueberry producers used frost precautions for their berries. Temperatures were in the 60's with a high temperature in the 70's on Friday.

Central

Benton: Temperatures varied widely from sub-freezing to the high 70's during the week.

Chelan: Due to frost, scattered damage to fruit buds was reported. The effect was very limited compared to the crop potential. Cherries were at full bloom in lower elevation orchards. Pears will be blooming next week and apples will begin blooming the last week of April.

Douglas/Chelan: Cold temperatures caused some damage to the soft fruit crops. Apricots were in full bloom, but no information was available regarding crop losses. Cherries were in the bud stage and approximately 10 percent of the crop was affected by the frost. This should not affect the overall amount of fruit harvested. However, some producers may have suffered significant damage. Winter wheat was greening up and the overall crop looked good. Some livestock producers were getting ready to release cattle onto early spring pastures.

Franklin: There were a few rain showers that were nominal as fair wind breezes came in behind them. Otherwise, temperatures were near normal for this time of the year.

Grant: Although the county experienced some low temperatures over the past week, there were no reports of fruit damage. Local orchardists reported that some cherry

orchards received frost damage. Potato growers continued to prepare fields for planting. Fresh pea planting continued. The dryland winter wheat looked good.

Kittitas: With the warm days and cool nights, crop growth was accelerating. Buds were opening up on trees and cool-season pastures were finally exhibiting noticeable progress above ground. Livestock producers were branding and hay growers were keeping fertilizer companies working overtime.

Yakima: Apple and pear trees were leafing out. Cherry, peach, plum and crabapple trees were in bloom. Significant soft fruit bud loss has been reported from frost episodes during the evenings of April 1 and 2. It is still too soon to determine if this loss will result in crop reduction, but crop reduction is likely for some producers without frost protection measures. Conversely, crews have been out blossom thinning peaches and nectarines.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from eight degrees below normal to 11 degrees above normal, with 0.11 of an inch of precipitation. With temperatures as low as 22 degrees, producers continued to use frost control measures to protect their crops.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat conditions remained unchanged. Weed pressure was pretty low with larger wheat and smaller weeds. Spring seeding was nearly complete and was estimated at 30 percent emerged overall.

Asotin/Garfield: Warm, dry weather conditions allowed farmers to progress rapidly with spring planting and other fieldwork. Moisture was adequate in most areas except for a few areas in Asotin County.

Ferry: Orchardists were utilizing frost control methods to protect their fruit. Cattlemen were still calving. Hay growers applied fertilizers and prepared to begin irrigation.

Garfield: The warm weather allowed much spring seeding to continue.

Lincoln: Winter wheat remained in pretty good condition overall with little weed pressure. Spring seeding was just beginning for most of the county.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature during the week was 66 degrees and the low was 14 degrees. The ground has thawed over the past several weeks. Some fields were dry enough for fieldwork, while others were still too muddy to allow tractors on them. New pasture was beginning to emerge, but hay was still used for supplemental feeding. Livestock were losing their winter coats.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: It was a fairly typical week weather-wise—some snow, rain, hail and sunshine. Temperatures on Friday and Saturday were 15 degrees above normal, which made for excellent fieldwork conditions. Apricot trees were blooming, so other stone fruits are not far behind. A couple of nights of freezing temperatures were a concern, but no reports of damage

have been received. Wheat looked pretty good and was growing daily. Grass seed fields were greening up as well as pastures. Cattlemen were still feeding some hay, but turning cattle out on grass was still a month away.

Stevens: Several producers began tillage operations in preparation for seeding grain or hay crops. The majority of beef producers were winding up their calving. Pastures were greening up, but it will be a few weeks before cattle are turned out onto them. Warm weather gave a boost to winter wheat crops.

Walla Walla: The spring weather was nice with a few showers being received during the week. There were a few yellow spots in wheat along the foothills. Pastures really took off during the week, and alfalfa was growing well.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Weather conditions remained favorable. Spring planting progressed well. Crops planted earlier were emerging and looking good. Winter crops looked healthy. A couple of light showers during the week and frequent windy conditions slowed down planned spraying for weed control.

Whitman: Be on the lookout for Hessian flies this year—an early flight was spotted in March. Winter wheat could be susceptible if high populations occur earlier in the season than normal.

Whitman (2nd Report): Spring sprung late in the week with warming temperatures and sunshine that brought on a flurry of fieldwork activity. Spraying, tilling, fertilizing, and seeding activity were in full swing.

Weekly Weather Statistics

April 9, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	28	74	49	+3	16	+12	0	+0	0.25	-0.38	3	29.51	+2.08	108	126
Everett	32	75	52	+5	31	+24	4	+4	0.52	-0.19	2	27.92	+0.49	102	123
Hoquiam	32	75	53	+6	34	+27	3	+3	0.46	-0.78	3	62.05	+5.29	109	137
Kelso	27	79	51	+4	28	+21	0	+0	0.60	-0.29	2	36.28	-0.79	98	108
Olympia	25	78	50	+5	19	+17	0	+0	0.52	-0.37	2	50.58	+8.09	119	126
Seattle-Tacoma	34	79	53	+7	37	+30	5	+5	0.03	-0.60	1	39.70	+9.21	130	120
Shelton	24	78	50	+3	21	+14	0	+0	0.40	-0.75	2	68.73	+12.92	123	131
Tacoma WA AP	25	77	51	+4	25	+18	0	+0	0.40	-0.33	2	35.41	+3.04	109	115
Vancouver WA	28	78	53	+6	38	+31	1	+1	0.65	-0.07	2	32.84	-0.50	99	109
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	18	73	49	+5	23	+18	2	+2	0.02	-0.12	1	7.22	+0.43	106	66
Omak AP	26	74	46	+4	10	+10	0	+0	0.00	-0.21	0	6.78	-2.81	71	47
Stamper Pass	21	56	39	+7	0	+0	0	+0	0.51	-0.83	5	87.40	+19.65	129	131
Wenatchee	28	71	51	+4	27	+15	2	+2	0.00	-0.14	0	6.66	+0.58	110	46
Yakima AP	21	72	49	+2	18	+10	0	+0	0.04	-0.10	1	6.17	+0.08	101	46
NORTHEAST															
Colville	22	70	46	+3	16	+9	0	+0	0.04	-0.31	2	11.09	-3.58	76	81
Deer Park	18	72	45	+2	14	+10	0	+0	0.04	-0.31	2	14.79	+1.76	114	88
Republic	18	73	42	+2	2	+2	0	+0	0.11	-0.16	1	10.53	+0.83	109	58
Spokane AP	25	71	46	+4	16	+10	0	+0	0.02	-0.26	1	11.54	-0.03	100	79
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	26	72	50	+3	24	+13	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	5.63	+0.26	105	54
Moses Lake	23	74	49	+2	19	+8	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	4.99	-0.38	93	54
Quincy	26	71	50	+3	23	+13	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	6.28	+0.46	108	43
Ritzville	26	73	45	+2	14	+8	0	+0	0.03	-0.18	1	8.54	+0.24	103	67
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	27	72	52	+0	31	+8	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	3.65	-1.39	72	39
Pasco	22	74	51	+0	24	+3	3	+3	0.00	-0.14	0	5.71	+0.03	101	58
Pullman	28	72	47	+5	14	+11	0	+0	0.01	-0.39	1	13.02	-2.34	85	84
Walla Walla Rgn	31	69	51	+2	26	+10	1	+1	0.00	-0.42	0	14.24	-0.09	99	74
Whitman Mission	23	70	47	-3	9	-5	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	10.15	+0.32	103	78
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	27	75	51	+4	27	+13	1	+1	0.00	-0.22	0	6.48	-1.06	86	64

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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